

REMARKS

I. INTRODUCTION

Favorable reconsideration of this application, in light of the present amendments and following discussion, is respectfully requested.

II. STATUS OF THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-14 are pending; Claims 1-4, 6, 7, and 13 are amended; and no claims are newly added or canceled herewith. It is respectfully submitted that no new matter is added by this amendment.

III. SUMMARY OF THE OFFICE ACTION

In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 3-12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph; Claims 1-4, 9, and 10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by *Watson et al.* (U.S. Pat. No. 2,511,387 (hereafter *Watson*)); and Claims 1-4 and 9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by *Davenport et al.* (U.S. Pat. No. 2,553,175 (hereafter *Davenport*)). Additionally, Claims 5-8, 11, and 12 were indicated as allowable.

IV. REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 112

In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 3-12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as indefinite. Specifically, Claim 3 was objected to for reciting the phrase “the second outlet.” As Claim 3 has been amended herewith to address the noted informality, it is respectfully requested that this rejection be withdrawn.

V. REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102

A. The *Watson* Rejection

In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 1-4, 9, and 10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by *Watson*. For the reasons discussed below, this rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 1, from which Claims 2-4, 9, and 10 depend, recites, in part: “an inlet-outlet cover disposed on an upper part of the first cyclone and the second cyclones, for a fluid-communication between the first cyclone and the second cyclones” A non-limiting example of the claimed configuration is illustrated in Figure 2 of the present specification.

Watson relates to an apparatus for centrifugally separating suspended particles from gaseous media. The outstanding Office Action equates upper partition 24 with the claimed inlet outlet cover. However, as can be seen in Figure 1 of *Watson*, upper partition 24 does not enable fluid communication between the first and second cyclones. In more detail, air discharged from the first cyclone through discharge pipe 22 must travel through compartments 25 and 28 before it may then enter the secondary cyclones 26.¹ As a result, it is respectfully submitted that *Watson* does not disclose or suggest the claimed inlet-outlet cover, because partition 24 does not enable fluid communication between the first and second cyclones.

Accordingly, as the outstanding Office Action has not provided a *prima facie* case of anticipation for Claims 1-4, 9, and 10, it is respectfully requested that this rejection be withdrawn.

¹ See, e.g., *Watson*, col. 2, line 43 - col. 3, line 7.

B. The *Davenport* Rejection

Additionally, Claims 1-4 and 9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by *Davenport*. For the reasons discussed below, this rejection is also respectfully traversed.

As noted above, Claim 1, from which Claims 2-4 and 9 depend, recites, in part: “an inlet-outlet cover disposed on an upper part of the first cyclone and the second cyclones, for a fluid-communication between the first cyclone and the second cyclones”

Davenport relates to an apparatus for collecting ash and dust. At page 3, the outstanding Office Action equates element 31 of *Davenport* with the claimed inlet-outlet cover. However, element 31 does not enable fluid-communication between the first cyclone and second cyclones of *Davenport*.

In more detail, *Davenport* describes that circular plate 31 overlies the flange 30 and is disposed between the plate member 28 and flange 32 with the intervening plate 31 being secured together and to the top 28 in an air tight relation.² As illustrated in Figure 1 of *Davenport*, there is no fluid communication between the first and second cyclones through the intervening plate 31. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that *Davenport* does not disclose or suggest the claimed inlet-outlet cover.

Therefore, as *Davenport* does not disclose or suggest the features recited in independent Claim 1, it is respectfully requested that the rejection of Claims 1-4 and 9 be withdrawn.

² See, e.g., *Davenport*, col. 3, lines 58-72.

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VI. ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

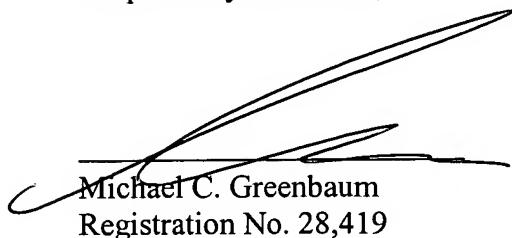
Applicants acknowledge with appreciation the indication that Claims 5-8, 11, and 12 contain allowable subject matter. As the amendments to Claims 6 and 7 merely address minor informalities, it is respectfully submitted that no new matter is added by this amendment and that Claims 5-8, 11, and 12 remain in condition for allowance.

Additionally, Applicants acknowledge with appreciation the indication that Claims 13 and 14 are allowed. Because the amendments to Claim 13 address a typographical informality, it is respectfully submitted that no new matter is added by this amendment and that Claim 13 remains in condition for allowance.

VII. CONCLUSION

Consequently, in view of the foregoing discussion and present amendments, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. An early and favorable action is therefore respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



Michael C. Greenbaum
Registration No. 28,419

BLANK ROME LLP
600 New Hampshire Ave., N. W.
Washington, D.C. 20037
Telephone: (202) 944-3000
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